

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The COPW labor camp in Ruda Slaska, near Stalinogrod, is located in the field near the Workers' Hotel and the ventilation shaft. The labor camp is subject to the Department of Prisons in the Ministry of Justice. At the head of the labor camp is a superior whose office is only of an administrative nature. The chief authority remains under the Section of Political Indoctrination and Section B (Security), which were located in the camp administration building.

2. The labor camp in Ruda Slaska was established in 1950 and is located at the site of the former Industrial Preparatory School. The buildings date back to the school but the stockade and observation towers were built at the time the labor camp was being organized. Subordinate to the labor camp in Ruda Slaska are so-called sub-labor camps at the Elzbieta and Pawel mine shafts. This is a complete unit as regards administration, but not as to distance between work and lodgings, for prisoners are located at three different sites.

3. The labor camp in Ruda Slaska, with the exception of the sub-labor camps, with occupies an area of 350 meters in length and 300 meters in width. It is comprised of the following buildings. The numbers used here correspond with those on the annexed sketch.

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- 1) Prison cells, in a two-story gray stucco building with a flat roof. The dimensions of this building are 50 by 10 meters.
- 2) and 3) Buildings identical in function, dimensions, and appearance with No. 1.
- 4) Labor camp administration building; dimensions and description identical with No. 1. It is enclosed by a barbed wire fence two meters high.
- 5) Guardhouse of KBW (Korpus Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego-Internal Security Corps) and offices of the labor camp commandant, in a one-story gray stucco building.

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The dimensions are 25 by 8 meters. One half of this building is occupied by the commandant's offices and the other half by the KBW men as a guard-house. This building, like the administration building, is surrounded by a barbed wire fence extending to the guard post as indicated in No. 14 on the sketch. They have the appearance of individual courtyards.

- 6) Kitchen and mess hall; description and dimensions identical to Building No. 1.
 - 7) Boiler room; a small brick building with a tin plate chimney jutting two meters above the roof. The dimensions are 10 by 4 meters.
 - 8) Laundry; a two-story brick building notably taller than Building No. 1. A locksmith's shop is also located in this building. The dimensions are 20 by 8 meters.
 - 9), 10) and 11) Pig pens; identical average frame barrack buildings. The dimensions are 20 by 8 meters.
 - 12) Observation towers; a total of five frame structures situated at various corners of the labor camp. They are six or seven meters high.
 - 13) Entrance from the labor camp into the pig pens; always closed and only opened by the guard.
 - 14) Guard post; a brick building with a telephone and inspection officer located next to the entrance gate. The dimensions are 3 by 4 meters.
 - 15) Athletic fields (Boisko), where the prisoners spend their free time away from work. The dimensions of each of the two fields are approximately 100 by 30 meters.
4. Approximately 900 prisoners are located in the labor camp, including the prisoners at the sub-labor camps of the Elzbieta and Pawel mine shafts and those in Ruda Slaska. All prisoners at this camp are serving the final five years of their sentences. Prison sentences are worked out as follows: if a prisoner, for example, received an eight-year sentence in 1950, he served the first three years at a regular prison and then was sent to the labor camp to serve the remaining five years of his sentence. The crimes of the prisoners at this labor camp include both political transgressions and common offenses.
 5. Ninety percent of the prisoners work at various jobs underground in the coal mines; the remaining 10 percent work in the administration of the labor camp. The prisoners of the camp work at the Franciszek and Mikolaj mine shafts of the Walenty-Wawel coal mine.
 6. Some prisoners live one kilometer away from the Franciszek mine shaft and are driven to work in cars under the escort of KBW soldiers. Some prisoners also live two kilometers from the Mikolaj mine shaft and are driven in cars but escorted by prison guards.
 7. The laborers in the coal mines earned the same amount of money as civilian laborers. Fifty percent of the money earned was deducted for room, board, and clothing by the State and the remaining 50 percent was left at the prisoner's disposal. However, prisoners were allowed to spend only one half of that for personal needs, while the other one half was invested in the prisoner's account, which is returned to him upon discharge from the camp.
 8. Laborers on jobs on the surface of coal mines earned nothing. Prisoners performing a work norm of 110 percent underground in the mines were credited double time in serving their sentences. Prisoners working on pillars and in galleries earned up to and above 1,000 zloty per month, and prisoners working as coal loaders earned up to 3,000 zloty per month.

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9. Labor camp meals were much better than in prison, and even though they were not so bad one would not be able to work very long at such hard labor if unable to purchase additional food. For the one fourth of their earnings which the prisoners have for their own use in the camp, they purchase food articles such as lard, sugar, eggs, and the like, at the prisoners' exchange. Prisoners were able to go and purchase food twice a week, in groups and escorted by a guard. They were able to have two half-hour visits during the course of a month from family visitors.
10. The entire labor camp is surrounded by a double barbed wire fence two meters high. The interval of two meters between one line of barbed wire and the other is called the death belt. Any prisoner found escaping between the two lines of barbed wire may be shot without warning by a guard from the observation tower. The area around the pig pens and the administration building is surrounded by only one line of barbed wire.
11. Guard towers seven meters high are situated at each corner of the camp and KBW men stand guard in these towers day and night. Guard duty lasts for two hours and guard changes occur each day at 5 p.m. The prison guards do guard duty inside the labor camp. Prisoners in the camp are not shackled and have freedom to move about. They are obliged to go inside at 9 p.m. during the summer and at 7 p.m. during the winter.

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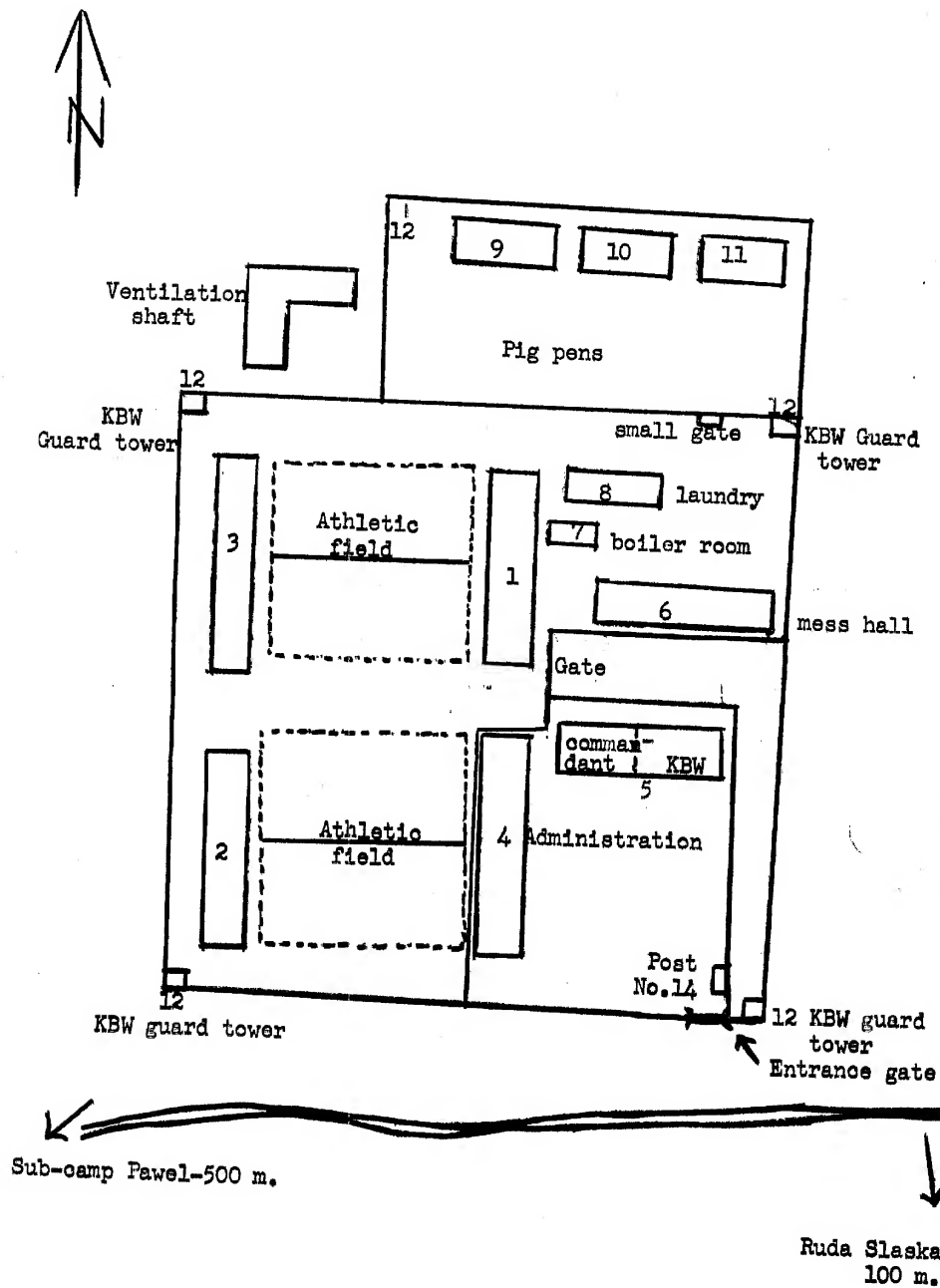
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Labor Camp, Ruda Slaska

2 km.
Sub-camp Elzbieta

Zabrze-5 km.



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